

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A circuit for determining an indication of a length of a conductor, comprising:

- a terminal for connection to a conductor under test;
- a pulse source circuit coupled to the terminal for providing a signal to the conductor for use in determining an indication of the length of the conductor;
- a frequency generator circuit, coupled to the pulse source circuit, for producing first and second frequency signals having a particular relationship; and
- a mixer, coupled to the frequency generator circuit and the pulse source circuit, for receiving signals related to the first and second frequency signals and for mixing the received signals to produce an output signal.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The circuit of claim 1 wherein the frequency generator circuit comprises:

- a frequency generator producing the first frequency signal and a third frequency signal; and
- a multiplier circuit, coupled to the frequency generator, for receiving the third frequency signal and producing the second frequency signals, wherein the second frequency signal is a multiple of the first frequency signal.

Claim 3 (original): The circuit of claim 2 wherein the multiplier circuit comprises:

- a phase-locked loop coupled to the frequency generator; and
- a divide by N circuit coupled to the phase-locked loop.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): The circuit of claim 2 wherein the multiplier circuit comprises two asynchronous crystal controlled oscillators.

Claim 5 (original): The circuit of claim 1 wherein the mixer comprises a sample-hold latch.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A circuit for determining an indication of a length of a conductor, comprising:

a terminal for connection to a conductor under test;

a pulse source circuit coupled to the terminal for providing a signal to the conductor for use in determining an indication of the length of the conductor, wherein the pulse source circuit comprises a circuit for producing a signal having a fifty percent duty cycle of a received signal;

a frequency generator circuit, coupled to the pulse source circuit, for producing first and second frequency signals having a particular relationship; and

a mixer, coupled to the frequency generator circuit and the pulse source circuit, for receiving signals related to the first and second frequency signals and for mixing the received signals to produce an output signal.

Claim 7 (previously presented): A circuit for determining an indication of a length of a conductor, comprising:

a terminal for connection to a conductor under test;

a pulse source circuit coupled to the terminal for providing a signal to the conductor for use in determining an indication of the length of the conductor;

a frequency generator circuit, coupled to the pulse source circuit, for producing first and second frequency signals having a particular relationship;

a mixer, coupled to the frequency generator circuit and the pulse source circuit, for receiving signals related to the first and second frequency signals and for mixing the received signals to produce an output signal; and

a length error detector circuit coupled to the pulse source circuit and the mixer.

Claim 8 (original): The circuit of claim 1 wherein the terminal is configured for connection to a cable.

Claim 9 (original): The circuit of claim 1, further comprising a capacitor coupled between the terminal and the pulse source circuit.

Claim 10 (original): The circuit of claim 1, further comprising steering logic coupled between the terminal and the pulse source circuit.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A circuit for determining an indication of a length of a conductor, comprising:

a terminal for connection to a conductor under test;
a sample-hold latch, that receives a signal with a pulse-width related to the length of the conductor under test;
a re-synchronizer coupled to the sample-hold latch, that synchronizes an output of the sample-hold latch with a clock signal;
a pulse source coupled to the sample-hold latch, the re-synchronizer, and the terminal;
and
a voltage comparator coupled to the pulse source and the terminal.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A circuit for determining an indication of a length of a conductor, comprising:

a terminal for connection to a conductor under test;
a sample-hold latch;
a re-synchronizer coupled to the sample-hold latch;
a pulse source coupled to the sample-hold latch, the re-synchronizer, and the terminal;
a voltage comparator coupled to the pulse source and the terminal; and
a length error detector coupled to the sample-hold latch, the re-synchronizer, and the pulse source.

Claim 13 (original): The circuit of claim 11, further comprising an amplifier coupled between the pulse source and the terminal.

Claim 14 (original): The circuit of claim 11, further comprising a capacitor coupled between the voltage comparator and the pulse source.

Claim 15 (original): The circuit of claim 11, further comprising:

a first clock coupled to the sample-hold latch; and
a second clock coupled to the pulse source.

Claim 16 (original): The circuit of claim 15, further comprising a squaring flip-flop coupled between the second clock and the pulse source.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for determining an indication of a length of a conductor, comprising:

generating first and second frequency signals having a particular relationship;

mixing signals related to the first and second frequency signals to produce an output signal; and

applying a pulse edge, based upon the output signal, to a terminal for connection to a conductor under test, wherein a pulse width from the pulse edge is related to the length of the conductor under test.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, further comprising:

receiving a signal from the terminal; and

performing a voltage comparison of the received signal.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the mixing step includes using a flip-flop to mix the signals.

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method for determining an indication of a length of a conductor, comprising:

generating first and second frequency signals having a particular relationship;

mixing signals related to the first and second frequency signals to produce an output signal;

applying a pulse edge, based upon the output signal, to a terminal for connection to a conductor under test;

receiving a signal from the terminal; and

detecting a length error of the conductor based upon the received signal.

Claims 21 (withdrawn): A method for determining an indication of a length of a conductor, comprising:

generating first and second frequency signals having a particular relationship;

mixing signals related to the first and second frequency signals to produce an output signal;

repeated applying a pulse, based upon the output signal, to a terminal for connection to a conductor under test;

determining multiple distance measurements based upon the repeated applying step; and

calculating a value, providing an indication of a length of the conductor, based upon the multiple distance measurements.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21 wherein the calculating step includes determining an average value of the multiple distance measurements.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method of claim 21 wherein the generating step includes using a phase-locked loop to generate the first and second frequency signals.

Claim 24 (withdrawn) The method of claim 21 wherein the calculating step includes:

maintaining a running count of a number of the multiple distance measurements;
maintaining a running sum of the multiple distance measurements; and

calculating an average value of the multiple distance measurements using the running count and the running sum.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The circuit of claim 1, wherein the first frequency signal has a different frequency than the second frequency signal.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The circuit of claim 25, wherein the first frequency signal and the second frequency signal have independent and varying phases with respect to each other.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The circuit of claim 1, wherein the conductor completes the pulse source circuit when connected to the terminal.